NUMB. CCLXXXIII.

The SPECTATOR.

Magiſter artis & largitor ingeni
Venter—— —— Perſ

Thurſday, January 24. 1712.

LUCIAN rallies the Philoſophers in his Time, who could not agree whether they ſhould admit *Riches* into the number of *real Goods*; the Profeſſors of the Severer threw them quite out, while others as reſo- inſerted them.

I am apt to believe, that as the World grew more Polite, the rigid Doctrines of the firſt were ally diſcarded; and I do not find any one ſo hardy preſent, as to deny that there are very great Ad- ges in the Enjoyment of a plentiful Fortune. the beſt and wiſeſt of Men, tho' they may deſpiſe a good Part of thoſe things which World calls Pleaſures, can, I think, hardly be ble of that Weight and Dignity which a mo- ſhare of Wealth adds to their Characters, ils and Actions.

find it a general Complaint in Profeſſions and that the Richeſt Members of them are encouraged, and this is falſely imputed to nature of Mankind, who are ever beſtowing favours on ſuch as leaſt want them. Where- we fairly conſider their Proceedings in this we ſhall find them founded on undoubted on: Since ſuppoſing both equal in their al Integrity, I ought, in common Prudence, foul Play from an Indigent Perſon, rather from one whoſe Circumſtances ſeem to have him above the bare Temptation of Money.

This Reaſon alſo makes the Common-wealth re- her richeſt Subjects, as thoſe who are moſt cerned for her Quiet and Intereſt, and conſe- fitteſt to be entruſted with her higheſt Im- ents. On the contrary, *Catiline*'s Saying to Men of deſperate Fortunes, who applyed ſelves to him, and of whom he afterwards poſed his Army, that *They had nothing to hope but a Civil War*, was too true not to make the ections he deſired.

believe I need not fear but that what I have in Praiſe of Money, will be more than ſufficient moſt of my Readers to excuſe the Subject of preſent Paper, which I intend, as an Eſſay on *Ways to raiſe a Man's Fortune*, or *The Art of Rich*.

The firſt and moſt infallible Method towards the ing of this End, is *Thrift*: All Men are not e- qualified for getting Mony, but it is in the Pow- every one alike to practiſe this Virtue, and I be- there are very few Perſons, who, if they pleaſe reflect on their paſt Lives, will not find that had ſaved all thoſe little Sums, which they have unneceſſarily, they might at preſent have been maſters of a competent Fortune. *Diligence* juſt- gives the next Place to *Thrift*: and I find theſe excellently well recommended to common uſe the three following *Italian* Proverbs.

Never do that by Proxy which you can do your ſelf.

Never defer that 'till to Morrow which you can do to Day.

Never neglect ſmall Matters and Expences.

A third Inſtrument of growing Rich, is *Method in Buſineſs*, which, as well as the two former, is alſo attainable by Perſons of the meaneſt Capacities.

The famous *De Wit*, one of the greateſt States- men of the Age in which he lived, being aſked by a Friend, How he was able to diſpatch that Mul- titude of Affairs in which he was engaged? replyed That his whole Art conſiſted in doing one thing at once. If, ſays he, I have any neceſſary Diſpatches to make, I think of nothing elſe 'till thoſe are finiſh- ed; If any Domeſtick Affairs require my Attention, I give my ſelf up wholly to them 'till they are ſet in Order.

In ſhort, we often ſee Men of dull and phleg- matick Tempers, arriving to great Eſtates, by mak- ing a regular and orderly Diſpoſition of their Buſi- neſs, and that without it the greateſt Parts and moſt lively Imaginations rather puzzle their Affairs, than bring them to an happy iſſue.

From what has been ſaid, I think I may lay it down as a Maxim, that every Man of good Com- mon Senſe may, if he pleaſes, in his particular ſta- tion of Life, moſt certainly be Rich. The Reaſon why we ſometimes ſee that Men of the greateſt Capacities are not ſo, is either becauſe they deſpiſe Wealth in Compariſon of ſomething elſe; or at leaſt are not content to be getting an Eſtate, un- leſs they may do it their own way, and at the ſame time enjoy all the Pleaſures and Gratificati- ons of Life.

But beſides theſe ordinary forms of growing Rich, it muſt be allowed that there is room for Genius, as well in this as in all other Circumſtances of Life.

Tho' the ways of getting Money were long ſince ve- ry numerous; and tho' ſo many new ones have been found out of late Years, there is certainly ſtill re- maining ſo large a Field for Invention, that a Man of an indifferent Head might eaſily ſit down and draw up ſuch a Plan for the Conduct and Support of his Life, as was never yet once thought of.

We daily ſee Methods put in Practice by Hungry and Ingenious Men, which demonſtrate the Power of Invention in this Particular.

It is reported of *Scaramouch*, the firſt famous *Italian* Comedian, that being at *Paris*, and in great Want, he bethought himſelf of conſtantly plying near the Door of a noted Perfumer in that City, and when any one came out who had been buying Snuff, never failed to deſire a Taſte of them; when he had by this means got together a quantity made up of ſeveral different ſorts, he ſold it again at a lower

rate

rate to the same Perfumer, who finding out the Trick, called it *Tabac de mille fleures*, or *Snuff of a thousand Flowers*. The Story farther tells us, that by this means he got a very comfortable Subsistance, 'till making too much haste to grow Rich, he one Day took such an unreasonable Pinch out of the Box of a *Swiss* Officer, as engaged him in a Quarrel, and obliged him to quit this Ingenious way of Life.

Nor can I in this place omit doing Justice to a Youth of my own Country, who, tho' he is scarce yet twelve Years old, has with great Industry and Application attained to the Art of beating the Grenadiers March on his Chin. I am credibly informed, that by this means he does not only maintain himself and his Mother, but that he is laying up Money every Day, with a design, if the War continues, to purchase a Drum at least, if not a Colours.

I shall conclude these Instances with the Device of the famous *Rablais*, when he was at a great distance from *Paris*, and without Money to bear his Expences thither. This Ingenious Author being sharp set, got together a convenient quantity of Brick-Dust, and having disposed of it into several Papers, writ upon one *Poyson for Monsieur*, upon a second *Poyson for the Dauphin*, and on a third *Poyson for the King*. Having made this Provision for the Royal Family of *France*, he laid his Papers so that his Landlord, who was an Inquisitive Man, and a good Subject, might get a sight of them.

The Plot succeeded as he desired: The Host give immediately Intelligence to the Secretary of State. The Secretary presently sent down a Special Messenger, who brought up the Traitor to Court, and provided him at the King's Expence with proper Accommodations on the Road. As soon as he appeared he was known to be the Celebrated *Rablais*, and his Powder upon Examination being found very Innocent, the Jest was only laught at; for which a less eminent *Drole* would have been sent to the Galleys.

Trade and Commerce might doubtless be still varied a thousand ways, out of which would arise such Branches as have not yet been touched. The famous *Doily* is still fresh in every ones Memory, who raised a Fortune by finding out Materials for such Stuffs as might at once be cheap and genteel. I have heard it affirmed, that had not he discovered this frugal Method of gratifying our Pride, we should hardly have been able so well to carry on the last War.

I regard Trade not only as highly advantageous to the Common-wealth in general; but as the most natural and likely Method of making a Man's Fortune; having observed, since my being a Spectator in the World, greater Estates got about *Change*, than at *Whitehall* or *St. James's*. I believe I may also add, that the first Acquisitions are generally attended with more Satisfaction, and as good a Conscience.

I must not however close this Essay, without observing, that what has been said is only intended for Persons in the common ways of Thriving, and is not designed for those Men who from low Beginnings push themselves up to the Top of States, and the most considerable Figures in Life. My Maxim of *Saving* is not designed for such as these, since nothing is more usual than for *Thrift* to disappoint the Ends of *Ambition*, it being almost impossible that the Mind should descend to, and be intent upon Trifles, while it is at the same time forming some great Design.

I may therefore compare these Men to a great Poet, who, as *Longinus* says, while he is full of the most magnificent Ideas, is not always at leisure to mind the little Beauties and Niceties of his Art.

I would however have all my Readers take great care how they mistake themseves for uncommon *Genius's*, and Men above Rule, since it is very easie for them to be deceived in this Particular.

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AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Thursday, the 24th Day of January, will be presented a Play call'd The Tempest, or the Inchanted Island. As it was Alter'd from Shakespear by Sir Wil. D'avenant and the late Mr. Dryden. Poets Laureat. With New Scenes, Machines, and all the Original Decorations proper to the Play. By Her Majesty's Command. No Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

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